

EXHIBIT A

**NOTICE TO BRIDGEWATER STATE HOSPITAL PATIENTS  
PLACED IN SECLUSION OR RESTRAINT**

**Minich, et al. v. Commissioner of Correction, et al.**

The Court has approved a Settlement Agreement in a class action law suit challenging the improper use of Seclusion and Restraint at Bridgewater State Hospital. All patients at Bridgewater are protected by the Settlement Agreement. A copy of the Agreement is available in the law library. Under the Agreement:

- Patients may not be placed in Seclusion or Restraint except in an emergency, such as the occurrence of, or imminent, serious threat of, extreme violence, personal injury, or attempted suicide;
- Patients may not be kept in Seclusion or Restraint any longer than necessary;
- ~~Patients in Seclusion must be housed in hygienic conditions; they may~~ shower daily, and may brush their teeth twice daily. Patients in Restraint shall have reasonable access to food, drink, a toilet or bedpan, and other personal needs;
- Unless clinically contraindicated, patients in Seclusion may have access to visits, telephones, reading materials, and exercise.

Other important provisions of the Settlement Agreement include:

- Bridgewater will establish alternatives to Seclusion and Restraint such as Quiet Rooms, and, for patients at high risk of placement in Seclusion or Restraint, Individual Crisis Prevention plans;
- Prompt medical assessment and monitoring of patients in Restraint;
- Training of clinical and correctional staff to prevent inappropriate use of Seclusion and Restraint;
- Creation of a Family Support Group to improve the quality of contact between families and patients;
- Designation of the **Disability Law Center** as an independent Monitor to ensure compliance with the terms of the Agreement.

If you have questions about your rights under the Settlement Agreement, you may contact the lawyers for the Class.

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*I have sought legal  
intervention from all three*